

By the King.

¶ A Proclamation signifying his Maiesties pleasure, to confirme by all meanes the estates of his Subiects against all defects in their Assurances, and all concealed Titles.



He Kings most Excellent Maiestie (hauing alwayes before his eyes a serious consideration of that great and weightie Charge which is committed to him for the gouernement of so many famous Countreys and people, ouer whome the KING of Kings hath made him Supzeme Head and Ruler, and doeth expect at his hands (out of duetie to his Diuine Maiestie) the same Care and feeling of all things concerning his Subiects, which the naturall head (by instinct of Nature) hath of the least member of the naturall body: is pleased now, aswell out of his longer experience of Regall Authozitie, exercised in another great and ancient Kingdome, before his coming to the Crowne of England, as out of the Rules of his owne Justice and moderate disposition in all things, to seeke to be enformed particularly and fully, whether the courses that haue bene taken, or may hereafter for enquirie or recouerie of his Maiesties rightfull Titles (cast vpon him by Law) may not moze disturbe and endamage his good and louing Subiects, then stands with the iust measure of his owne desires: who esteemeth his greatest riches to be included in the treasure of his Subiects hearts. In which respect, Although his Maiestie is not ignorant, that by the rule of Law no time can preiudice the Rights of the Kings of this Realme, but that contrarywise, the continuance of time is said in Law rather to increase, and aggravate the wrong, then to extenuate or purge the same; And that in many cases betwene Subiect and Subiect (by common experience) ancient possessions are euicted and ouerthrowen by Titles moze ancient: Yet such is his highnes Princely disposition, as he is willing to make them find, both the effects of his Bountie and Grace, and the due measure of his Integritie and Conscience. And therefore being enformed by his Maiesties Commissioners and Officers, (employed aswell ordinarily, as extraordinarily, in the care of his Reuenues) That the possessions of his Subiects, haue, and doe dayly fall within the danger of Law (aswell concerning their Landes of Inheritance, as their Leases from his Maiestie or his Progenitors for liues or yeeres) by many wayes and meanes: Not onely vpon points of defect in forme, but euen in points of Substance most iust and weightie; As in respect of exchanges with the Crowne, not duly conueyed or executed on the Subiects part: Of the falsitie of Considerations materiall, vpon which the Letters Patents haue bene obtained: Of the falsitie of Suggestions, whereby the King hath bene deceiued, and sometimes ancient Crowne Lands haue bene caried away, as if they had bene but new Augmentations of Reuenues by Attainder, or the like: Of Intayles made to the Kings of this Realme, or descended to them from their Ancesters, whereby it appeareth, that the King hath not bene truly enformed of his estate, when he made his grant, hauing no intention of disinherison of his Issue in Tayle, against the Lawe; Of referring to other Letters Patents, where many times there are none such, as by the recitall are supposed; Of insufficient sauing, or providing for that estate or benefite, which is intended to the King vpon the Letters Patents, by way of exception, Reservation, or other wise: Of want of proper and apt words, such as the Law doeth require, euen in a case betwene Subiect and Subiect; Of passing their Grants vnder a wrong Scale, contrary to the grounds of Law, or crypse Actes of Parliament; Of want of Offices, or insufficiencie of Offices, whereby the Kings Title not rightly appearing, his Grants could not but passe in darkenesse; And many other the like defects in matter and substance, besides the defects, errours, omissions, and misprisions in writing and in forme, which are no lesse dangerous in strictnesse of Law: And his Maiestie being further enformed, That the possessions of his louing Subiects may also be impeached and brought in question vpon other Titles not hauing any dependance vpon defectiue Letters Patents, but vpon other points of diuerse natures, and yet all warranted by the Lawes of this Land; As vpon Escheats by Attainders or other wise, vpon Title accrued by Dissolution, Surrender, Suppression, or relinquishing of Monasteries, encroachments vpon his Maiesties wastes and high wayes, which is a meere vsurpation and intrusion vpon his Maiesties possession, not coloured by any pretence of Title; vpon occupation of drowned lande by time recouered from the Sea, which by his Maiesties Prerogatiue belongeth to the Crowne; vpon Tythes detained, which lie out of all Parishes; vpon Alienations in Mortmaine, purchases by Aliens, and the like; And lastly vpon condition broken for non payment of Rent at the dayes appointed, and other the like Actes not performed: His Maiestie conceiueth it to be a worke worthy of himselfe to settle (as much as in him is) at once, a peace and quietnesse in the possessions of his Subiects.

And as his Maiestie hath heretofore suspended the rigour of a Legall prosecution in these cases, and turned it into a gracious composition, vpon a summary consideration of the title, whereby both the charge of Sute, & the extremity of Euiction

might be avoided: So his Highnesse vnderstanding, that euen that course of fauour doth not answere or attaine (in some circumstances) to that measure of grace, which he intendeth to his louing Subjects; Is pleased, that there be a cessation also of that former proceeding. And therefore, although his Maiestie knowes, that no ordinary forme of Legall proceeding, concludes the interest, nor time extinguisheth the right of Soueraigne Princes, that many Prerogatiues assist him, that the voyce of the Lawes interprets the best to be taken for him, and that he hath all aduantages, sauing a heart that will take no aduantage: And although the present necessity of his estate (whereof the splendor and greatnesse is so enlarged) may iustly perswade any lawfull Improuement of the profits of the Crowne: Yet it hath pleased him, as a pledge of greater fauour intended towards his Subjects, then euer they receiued from his Predecessors, (setting apart all other considerations of profit to himselfe, or power ouer his good Subjects in this kinde) by this Proclamation to declare, that he is fully resolved, that all his louing Subjects shall partake of this grace, to haue all the states of their Lands confirmed and made perfect, and to be discharged of all meane profits and Issues whatsoever heretofore due or Incurred, notwithstanding any the defects or imperfections before mentioned, or any other whatsoever; So as their estates be not by time expired and determined before, as in case of Intayles already spent and runne out: In which case the detaining of any Land from his Maiestie is so Inuiolous, as no priuate man could willingly indure to be so defrauded. For which grace and fauour, as the Subject shall be no further charged for euer hereafter, then by payment of five peeres fine at the vttermost, according to the olde Rent, and the same to be Rated onely as it appeareth to be in value by former office, by particuler, or els by oath or affidavit, before some Commissioners without further examination thereof, or any manner of Discouery or declaration of any Imperfection or Inualidity of their titles in any of those things for which they made offer of Composition: So his Maiestie doth not doubt, but his discrete and louing Subjects (comparing all circumstances together, as well considerable in his owne Person as theirs) with due acknowledgement and gratitude will embrace this fauour so graciously offered, and not to foregoe the time of acceptation of it, which his Maiestie doth hereby limite to be before the ende of Michaelmas Terme next, seeing they and their posteritie may thereby be so well secured in their estates and Patrimonies for euer. For the perfect accomplishment of which his Maiesties gracious intention towards his louing Subjects, thus expressed by this declaration, his Highnesse is pleased by his Commission vnder the great Seale of England, to giue full and absolute power and authoritie to certaine selected Commissioners of his Maiesties priue Counsell and others, to giue Order and Warrant for such Gifts, Graunts, Confirmations, and other Assurances to be made and passed vnder the great Seale of England, or Seale of the Duchie of Lancaster, or by fines to be leuied, or by all or any other those wayes and meanes as shall be found needefull and requisite for the seuerall Cases, And as by the Counsaile learned of the parties that shall desire such Assurances respectiue, vpon conference with his Maiesties learned Counsell shall be thought fitte and reasonable. And for their better and more absolute Assurance against all future doubts or questions whatsoever, his Maiestie doeth by these presents publish and declare, that he is so willing to Confirm and establish their Cases and Possessions against all Claymes, Titles, and exceptions whatsoever, that he is pleased that it be propounded to the next Parliament, That such Gifts, Graunts, Confirmations, and other assurances as shall bee made in performance and execution of this his Princely intention, may be ratified and confirmed against him, his Heires and Successors for euer, by authoritie of Parliament: And also to giue his Royall assent thereunto, when they shall be brought to that point: And doth likewise hereby promise to giue to any his louing Subjects (that shall seeke it) his Royall Couenant to be inserted into the booke of their Assurances to the effect aforesayd. And for the ease of Charge to the Subject in passing such their Assurances: It hath pleased his Highnesse as well to giue order that there shall be an abatement of the ordinary fees payd at the Seales, as also to permit diuers persons to ioine in one Patent, till their seuerall Purchases doe amount to forty pounds according to the olde Rent, whereupon the Composition shall be grounded. And because the sayd Commissioners being most of them of his Maiesties priue Counsell, (and therefore ordinarily employed in the greatest affaires of the Kingdome) shall not haue so fit meanes at all times to receiue and heare the first motions of his Maiesties Subjects, that shall desire such new Assurances as aforesayd: His Highnesse hath therefore appoynted his Attorney and Sollicitor generall, to be ready from time to time, to heare and conferre with his Subjects and their Counsell concerning the premises, that they may be sure to receiue their dispatch with all possible expedition and fauour.

Giuen at White-hall the xxij. day of Aprill, in the seuenth yeere of our Reigne
 of great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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 Excellent Maiestie. ANNO. 1609.